the supreme command of the army.

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NEW-YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1899.—TEN PAGES.

BULLER'S ARMY RETIRES

BRITISH MOVE BACK.

THREE MILES SOUTH. WIRE DEFENCES OF THE BOERS AT THE

TUGELA - THEIR STRONG POSI-

TION AT MAGERSFONTEIN. [Copyright; 1899; By The New-York Tribune.1

INY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.

London, Dec. 25, 6 a. m .- The War Office states that the military situation in South up to yesterday afternoon. The latest news of in a "Post" telegram from Chieveley ish column struck camp and formed a new one

"The Telegraph's" correspondent remarks on the resourcefulness of the Boers in defence Besides the rows of trenches on both sides of five hundred vards placed a most complicated

structed nearly twenty miles of trenches due

"The Times" mentions a rumor that the Free Winburg, as Bloemfontein is undefended and

It is announced that Lord Roberts willingly consented to the Duke of Connaught attaching himself to his staff for service in South Africa, but the arrangement failed to obtain the sanc-

## CHRISTMAS CALM IN LONDON

NEITHER GOOD NEWS NOR BAD CAME FROM THE SEAT OF WAR IN

SOUTH AFRICA.

[Copyright; 1899: By The New-York Tribune.] [EY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, Dec. 25, 1 a. m .- Christmas calm if not Christmas peace and joy has already settled For the first Sunday since the opening of the war newsboys' cries were not heard in the streets during the evening with stop press telegrams for twopence. Few bulletins were displayed at the clubs, and there were no loungers to gossip about them. The War Office was deserted and the Ministers, almost without exception, were in the country for an interval of rest.

Optimists here and there had clung to the hope that either General Buller or General Methuen might have done something at the close of the week to season the Christmas dinner at home, and that tidings of great joy might be reserved for Christmas Eve, but there were no signs late at night that there had been any unexpected stroke on the Tugela or the Modder, or that a fresh advance had been made in the direction either of Ladysmith or Kimberley. General Kitchener had arrived at Malta and reinforcements and artillery were going to Buller. Such s as there was from the seat of war was belated and immaterial It indicated a suspension of hostilities all along the British line until fresh reserves of infantry and artillery could be obtained for a renewal of the attack upon Colenso

THINK THE GENERALS ARE LEARNING. While the English Christmas dinner must be eaten with the bitter herbs of defeat and anxiety, judicious military critics are relieved by the knowledge that the generals are learning the necessity for caution and gradual approaches to strongly intrenched positions, and are convinced that even the bravest soldiers cannot be expected to work miracles by sheer gallantry. The commonest comment now heard in the military clubs is that the generals have underrated the power and resources of modern defensive warfare, and have attempted to do in a single day by direct frontal attack work which required week or a fortnight of deliberate manœuvring and systematic hammering by siege operations. Both Buller and Methuen have chosen the line of the greatest possible resistance in their last battles, and have expected to win decisive victories at a single stroke. The soberest critics are now convinced that English generals and soldiers are serving an apprenticeship in warfare with white men after having been unfitted for it by half a century of conflict with inferior races, and that hereafter there will be better scouting, deliberate siege operations for the capture of positions too strong to be taken by a frontal attack with the bayonet, and more effective use of the system of reconnoissance in force which was generally employed during the American Civil War. Some writers go further and assert that radical changes in the whole art of modern warfare will be wrought by the practical exhibition which the Dutch are making of the resources of mounted infantry acting on the defensive, with artillery of long range, and that

mounted soldiers in future European campaigns. Convincing proof that the War Office has not expected General Buller to eat his Christmas dinner in Pretoria is the fact that the belated alege train intended for the investment of that capital is still at sea and not due at Cape Town for a week. It would be useful in front either of Colenso or Magersfontein. A second slege train will probably be sent from India to South Africa, and a third is now being set in order in England for shipment. The delay in providing the army with adequate artillery for enabling it to attack strong defensive positions tells heavily against both the Headquarters Staff and the management of the War Office. Naturally Lord Lansdowne is exposed to attack, especially as the Intelligence Department, under Sir John Ardagh, seems to have reported accurate lists of the Boer long range guns, and as Sir William Butler is known to have given a warning from South Africa that in case of war fifty thousand troops would be needed on the Tugela and one hundred thousand for the invasion of the Dutch republics. Lord Lansdowne will retire if the Cabinet be reconstructed, but probably there will be no Ministerial changes unless serious reverses to British arms occur during the next month.

CONNAUGHT KEPT AT HOME.

It is now stated that the Duke of Connaught was so eager to go to the front that he applied for a position as aid on Lord Roberts's staff, but the War Office declined to allow a field marshal to waive his rank. The Duke will probably be assigned to command the forces in Ireland. where he will be in line for the succession to Lord Wolseley's place. The Queen has never

Five years ago occurred the famous Christmas raid from Mafeking into the Transvaal. Dr. Jameson is now taking care of fever patients in Ladysmith. Sir John Willoughby and nearly all the officers under him are fighting in the field. Cecil Rhodes is planting trees at Kimberley. The Reform Committee is scattered, J. P. Fitzpatrick being in London, Colonel Rhodes at the front, Mr. Hammond in America and others in Cape Town or England. And Johannesburg is a descrited city among the gold reefs. I. N. F.

GENERAL WALKER HAS NOTHING NEW. A SUGGESTION FROM METHUEN'S CAMP FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND MORE MEN.

London, Dec. 25, 4:30 a. m .- The War Office has received a cable dispatch from General Forestier-Walker, dated at Cape Town yesterday, saying

'Have no further news of the general situa-

It may be almost safely predicted that nothing will occur to-day. A truce, either formal or informal, is being kept for the observance of Christmas by the opposing forces

A dispatch from Modder River, dated Decem-

The Boers continue extending their trenches. ofence, as the surrounding country is perfectly level. The Boers, moreover, are compelled to keep a force estimated at twenty thousand in order to contain the British column. A large number of Lord Methuen's wounded have rewered and are ready to resume their places in

A dispatch to "The Daily News" from Modder River, dated December 18, says:

We are now waiting until England shall hav ealized the actual facts. It has he choice of positions. Let England, then alive to the need for a further hundred truest economy in both blood and treasure.

ionel Mackinnon has been appointed to command the City of London Imperial Volunteers The 16th Lancers have been ordered to proceed from Bombay to the Cape to meet the pressing need of cavalry. The Canadian Colonel Russard has been appointed to General French's

Dr. Leyds, who has again been interviewed asserts that the Boers have ample arms and ammunition, declaring that they have Mausers enough to give each burgher two and an equal

The morning papers are severely criticising the fact that General Sir Charles Warren's Fifth Division is being utilized to reinforce various points, instead of being concentrated at one.

GATACRE TRIES SPANISH METHODS. THE BRITISH GENERAL ISSUES A MODIFIED RECONCENTRADO ORDER.

Cape Town, Dec. 18 .- General Gatacre, in order to check insurrection among the Dutch colonists and to prevent disaffected persons giving information or other assistance to the Boers. has issued a modified reconcentrado order. By its terms all males over twelve years of age, of whatever nationality, living outside of towns or vilages, but within a radius of twelve miles of military camps now established or hereafter to be established north of Sterkstroom, are required immediately to vacate their places of residence and either to remove to some place outside the twelve-mile radius, or to camp in close proximity to the nearest military camp-the spot to be selected by the officer commanding-where they must live until further notice, providing for their own needs. All persons found within the radii without passes

Colonial Dutch have joined the Boers in that

district. Certain residents of Malmesbury celebrated General Gatacre's repulse at Stormberg by a

GENERAL KITCHENER AT MALTA.

Malta, Dec. 24.—General Lord Kitchener, Calef of Staff to General Lord Roberts, arrived here to-day from Alexandria on the British secondclass cruiser Isis. He went immediately or board the British cruiser Dido, which sailed for Gibraltar, where he will join Lord Roberts.

FIVE KILLED IN A TRAIN WRECK

DISASTER ON SOUTHERN PACIFIC, IN CAL-IFORNIA.

Pomona, Cal., Dec. 24 (Special).-Five persons were killed and a number were injured in a Southern Pacific train wreck this evening. The train was completely demolished.

TEXAS BRINGS BODIES OF MAINE DEAD.

SHE PASSES IN AT THE VIRGINIA CAPISS-FU NERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Cape Henry, Va., Dec. 24.—The United States Battleship Texas passed in the Capes to-night. She has on board the bodies of the Maine dead. Newport News, Va., Dec. 24.-The Army and Navy veterans of the Spanish war, under Colonel J. C. Baker, of the 2d Virginia, and Captain C. C. Berkeley, of the 4th Immunes, will meet the bodies of the Maine dead on their arrival here and will escort them to the funeral train. All the volunteers from this city, Hampton, Phæbus and vicinity, and a number of Regulars will be on hand when the Texas drops anchor off

Washington, Dec. 24.-Assistant Secretary there will be fewer foot soldiers and more Allen of the Navy Department, who has charge Allen of the Navy Department, who has charge of the preliminary arrangements for burying the bodies of the Maine's dead at Arlington next Thursday, has selected as a site for their last resting place a beautiful grassy knoll just this side of where the Santiago dead lie buried. Captain Sigsbee will have charge of the arrangements on the day of burial, and Chaplain Chidwick, who was on the Maine when she was blown up, will perform the funeral rites.

DROWNED IN THE ORINOCO.

GEORGE N. WEBSTER, A LAWYER, OF GENEVA.

Geneva, Ohio, Dec. 24 (Special).-Word was received here yesterday by Mary A. Webster, a wealthy widow, that her only son, George N. Webster, a lawyer, was drowned about two months ago in the Orinoco River, in Venezuela. He left this place about three years ago to make a tour of South America, prospecting for gold. At first success was met with, but reverses followed, and he joined an American, who was a Garcia plume These plumes are worth \$25 an hunter. and the birds are abundant near the Meta River, a tributary of the Orinoco. They were proceeding up the river in a steam yacht, when the boiler ex-

up the river in a steam yacht, when the boiler exploded, throwing them into the water.

Webster was drowned and his body was found by the natives a considerable distance down the river. It was given over to the American Consul at Port of Spain, who looked after its proper burial. Webster was a rising young lawyer, and owned one of the finest libraries in this region. His mother has had active steps taken endeavoring to recover the body that it may be brought here and buried, He has two sisters, who are musical instructors in the Knox Conservatory, at Galesburg, Ill.

The New-York Central's Empire State Express between New-York and Buffalo. 449 miles in 435 minutes. A two-cent mileage ticket (\$8.80) is good on this train.—Advt.

BRAZNELL MINE HORROR. TWENTY-ONE SAILORS LOST OPENING THE HOLY DOOR. MOSS'S REPORT GETS OUT.

LIVES LOST NOW BELIEVED TO NUM-

from Brownsville says that the horror of the Braznell mine grows in intensity with every at forty, and may pass that figure. There is a strong presumption that the laws regulating mining were carelessly and probably criminally disregarded. To-day the first bodies of the vic tims were brought out of the mine, and never before in the history of mine disasters were human beings more horribly mutilated. It was nearly 11 o'clock before the first five bodies were taken out, twenty-eight hours after the explosion. At 5:30 three were brought to the surface, and at 6:30 three more came up in the cage of the main shaft. The dead taken from

KOVITZ, George, aged forty, single

At least twelve other bodies are in sight, but flicting. A. B. Braznell, president of the Stocklieved that only twenty or twenty-five men had mine yesterday morning give different figures. They say thirty-five to forty men were down the main shaft in the cages, while about twenty climbed down the steps in the elevator shaft. From fifty-five to sixy men were in the mine, they say, and of this number only thirteen have been recovered alive. All the rest, whatever the

GAS KNOWN TO BE IN THE MINE

mine was perfectly well known, and that naked lights were used for several days before the explosion. According to credible authority, not a single safety lamp had been used in the mine by the working crews since Tuesday mornboss, James Ratcliffe, whose duty it was to look after the safety of the mine, and on whose care and intelligence the lives of the diggers depended in a large degree, told this story. Ratcliffe has not yet recovered from his narrow escape from death. He said:

I believe that the explosion was caused by a udden fall which occurred just before the exitation. I do not believe there was enough gas in the mine to be dangerous. As a matter of the mine to be dangerous. As a matter of ct the coal itself gives off a little gas, but e gas comes chiefly from the roof of the pit. the pit boss. I went from the pit boss. I went from the main shaft toward the air shaft, one hun-main shaft yards away. Everything was and fifty yards away smoke. Jones gave Everything was I with after damp and smoke. Jones gave in a few minutes, and I dragged him to the om of the main shaft, where there was a must have within two hundred or three hundred feet of the main shaft. The men were trapped there is alive. The two shafts were both disabled, and there was no other exit. I have never seen a more terrific mine explosion. Stone stoppings

mained. The stone was blown into dust. SAFETY LAMPS DISPENSED WITH.

feet thick and cemented together were y destroyed. Not even particles of roc

William Pastorious, a driver in the mine, tells a sensational story. Pastorious, who has in Brownsville for many years and is regarded as a man of intelligence, says that the pit boss, Jones, on Tuesday morning issued a general order that all safety lamps might be dispensed with, and in their stead the miners were permitted to use naked lights. Pastorious also states that the safety lamps were unlocked, contrary to regulations.

Superintendent Boyer, who is the superior of the pit boss, Jones, when told of the above statement said:

"I know nothing of the order to dispense with safety lamps." He would make no further state-

## HIGH WIND LIFTS A ROOF.

IT LIKEWISE, AT TOMPKINSVILLE, DROPS A CHIMNEY INTO A KITCHEN-NAR-ROW ESCAPE OF A GIRL

Considerable damage was done by the storm yesterday on Staten Island, particularly in Tompkinsville, where it was most severe. Windows were blown in, several telephone poles were blown and washed down and the entire roof of a three-story building in Griffin-st. was blown off. The building is owned by William B. Duncan, and is occupied by McKenzie & O'Neill as a feed store and storage house.

About 11 a. m. there was a lull in wind, after which it came with redoubled force. The roof, which was 100 by 50 feet in size, and covered with tin, was lifted ten feet in the air and, after sailing out over the street, dropped with a crash which could be heard nearly a mile away. It struck the guard wires holding the Staten Island electric trolley wires and broke them in two, but the trolley wires were uninjured. Men were put to work immediately gathering up the wood, bricks

and tin which had fallen. Another building, with a newly built kitchen, wned by Duncan, stands next to the one from which the roof was blown. This house is occupled by Richard Keys as a grocery store and a home. When the roof was blown off the chimney fell on top of the new kitchen, crashing through the roof and entirely destroying it. Mamie Keys, a daughter of the grocer, was

Mamie Keys, a daughter of the grocer, was standing in the room at the time, and had a narrow escape from being killed. The clock which stood os the mantel was struck by a falling brick and stopped at 11:06.

Several small boats which were moored at Stapleton were beached and partly smashed.

At Stapleton several large schooners dragged their anchors, and only the good management of the crews saved them from going ashore. The sloop yacht Lille, owned by A. Fuchslocher, of the Ocean Yacht Club, was washed ashore and pounded to pieces on the rocks. ashore and pounded to pieces on the rocks.

THE LOSS OF LIFE AT AMALFI.

Rome, Dec. 24.-Dispatches from Amalfi, the poplar tourist resort on the Guif of Salerno, where the landslide occurred on Friday, says that twelve persons are known to have been killed, that at least fifteen others were injured and that many

Among those killed were Miss Weir, a daughter of James Galloway Weir, member of the British House of Commons for Bors and Cromarty, and her governess. They had escaped, but returned for their valuables and were killed together. It now appears that some earth tremors and other

premonitions enabled many people to get away before the catastrophe occurred. The Mayo Amain declares his belief that the landslip due to the fact that a huge fissure, left after a similar slip ten years ago, had been carelessly filled with faggots and pleces of timber. This has always been considered a source of danger. The Hotel Santa Catarine was completely buried and other buildings are in ruins.

The peasants, fearing further landslides, refuse to return to their homes.

HATTERAS.

Pittsburg, Dec. 24.-A dispatch to "The Post" CAPTAIN AND EIGHT OF THE CREW OF A THE AGED PONTIFF PERFORMS HIS PART BRITISH STEAMSHIP SAVED BY

DROWNED FROM A BOAT.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 24.-Twenty-one sailors of the British steamship Ariosto lost their lives near Hatteras, N. C., this morning, in one of the worst wrecks that has occurred in that vi-Captain Baines and eight sailors were saved through the heroic efforts of the Ocracoke life saving crew, under Captain James Howard. The Ariosto, a vessel of 2.265 tons, seven years old, and owned by from Galveston to Hamburg by way of Norfolk with a miscellaneous cargo, and went ashore four miles south of Hatteras at 4 o'clock this morning, in a gale blowing nearly fifty miles

The Ocracoke life saving patrol discovered the ship ashore, and before daybreak the life savers were on the scene. They fired line after to the stranded ship, each one falling short, one finally landed. In the mean time twentyone of the crew decided to try to reach shore in a small boat. They had hardly put off from the ship before a big wave engulfed them and they were thrown into the sea. perate struggle for their lives against fearful odds, but their strength soon gave out, and they sank in full view of those on the ship and the

a line over the side of the ship, which lay about first sailor was landed by means of the breeches buoy, coming through the mountainous waves drenched to the skin. It took until nightfall to land the other seven men, including Captain Baines. The men lost everything except the clothing they wore. They are being cared for at the Ocracoke life saving station. All of the the Ocracoke life saving station. All of the men who were drowned were British. The life savers have been instructed to keep a sharp lookout for any bodies that may come ashore. The cargo of the Ariosto consisted of cotton, wheat, corn and meal. As soon as news of the disaster reached here wrecking tugs were hurried to the scene, and it is a race of steam against time to save the ship, which is leaking. The wind, however, to-night is in her favor. The Ariosto wreck is the worst since the German Ariosto wreck is the worst since the German ship Elizabeth went ashore in 1876, when fifty-five persons were drowned.

WHY LIVES WERE LOST. SEAMEN UNWILLING TO WAIT FOR BREECHES

Washington, Dec. 24.-Superintendent Kimhall of the Life Saving Bureau to-night received a dispatch in regard to the loss of the Ariosto. He will instruct Lieutenant Johnson, of the revenue cutter service, who is attached to office, to proceed to-morrow to the scene of the wreck and make a report of the circumstances attending the loss of life. This is the practice always followed by the life saving service when there is loss of life attending an accident to a steamer to which the surfmen have given as-

The Superintendent believes that the distress ing loss of life is probably due to the hurried efforts of the men to get away from the ship, instead of waiting until the breeches buoy could rigged up between the ship and the shore and their rescue effected. As the vessel appears still to be in good condition, the men, he thinks, might have remained on her an indefinite time before there was any real danger of losing their lives. Ship's hands of "deep water" boats, he thinks, take to the boats too often, a practice not followed by men devoted to coast navigawho realize the opportunities for rescue by

PERILAND COWARDICE AT SEA

STORY OF A RECKLESS CAPTAIN AND RECREANT MATE ON THE GULF OF MEXICO.

New-Orleans, Dec. 24 (Special).-About ten days ago news reached this city of the wreck of the schooner Ruff on the coast of Mexico, at which time Captain Kalker, commander of the vessel, was drowned. Last night several New-Orleans men who were passengers on board the Ruff, reached this city, and told a story of suffering, danger and rescue reading like a boys' tale of adventure. From their story, Captain Kalker acted in a criminally reckless manner, while his first mate deserted the vessel in the hour of danger.

The Ruff sailed from Mobile in the latter part of November, with coal for Coalzocoalcos, Mexico. Captain J. F. Van Horn and three associates had formed a company to navigate a small Mexican river, and had built two stern wheeled gasolene launches, so they secured passage on the Ruff had their launches blocked up on the deck. All went well for three days, when the schooner into a storm, and with the overloading of the upper deck with the launches the vessel was found in anything save a seaworthy condition. seas washed over her and one of these carried into the Gulf E. Van Horn, son of Captain Van Horn, before mentioned. The young man was saved by the presence of mind of a negro sailor, who hurled with a sure hand and reached the swimmer. The Ruff's condition grew desperate, and a was headed for Campeche Shoal, where she was anchored. At that point Captain Van Horn his party had enough of the schooner and de-

manded to be put ashore, but Captain Kalker refused and ordered his schooner to head on its course to Coatzacoalcos. The sea had calmed and the passage was made without incident until the port was sighted, when Captain Kalker again took the bit between his teeth and refused to signal for a pilot. A Mexican steamer and a pilot boat both signalled danger, but Captain Kalker swore that he was running the schooner, and she would go everywhere he wanted and nowhere else. One minute after making that bluff the schooner struck and was soon hard aground, with the waves dashing over her. The captain and mate, the latter the latter made an attempt to lower the ship's dressed, tied his clothes in a bundle, cut in two a life preserver belonging to the New-Orleans party, fastened one-half on the bundle and the other on himself and jumped overboard, swearing might do the same.

Soon after. Captain Kalker saw two negro sallors putting over the side in a dingy belonging to the New-Orleans expedition. The commander darted forward, drove the blacks away, floated the skiff and struck out alone, abandoning his ship and refusing to even burden himself with a single companion. The dingy, however, proved too light for

panion. The dingy, however, proved too light for the terrible sea, and was soon swamped. The captain clung to the sk ff for several hours, but finally his strength gave out from the cold and the wrenching of the seas, and he sank to his death. Then one by one three of the best swimmers on the vessel put on life preservers and leaped overboard. They could only be seen a short distance, and those on board believed all to have been lost until night came, when bondres on shore told that their plight was known.

All night the waves washed over the wreck, and it was not till dawn that the sea calmed sufficiently for a little sfebrat manned by American

it was not till dawn that the sea caimed sufficiently for a little deboat manned by american and English volunteers, to come through the surf to the rescue. It took three trips for all those on board to be carried to safety. It was then found that the three swimmers had reached shore in safety, though terribly exhausted and bruised. The mate, Sherman, had also reached shore, but had gone his way without giving any notice of the distress of his ship and crew.

These facts were told by Captain Van Horn and corroborated in full by the other passengers.

FIVE STATES IN FIVE HOURS. The "Royal Limited," beautiful, swift and sure. Leaves New-York, South Ferry and foot of Liberty Early 3 p. m., arrives Washington 8 p. m. Ex-guisite Dining and Cafe Car Service, Advt.

WORST WRECK OF MANY YEARS OFF A GRAND CEREMONIAL AT ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL.

TO THE END, ONLY SHOWING

TOWARD FATIGUE THE LAST. Rome, Dec. 24.-The Pope solemnly inaugu-

rated the Holy Year by performing the impressive ceremony of opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Cathedral at 11 o'clock this morning. The ceremony was performed in the Vestibule, which was handsomely decorated, in the presence of the papal officers, the members of the Diplomatic Corps, leading representatives of the Roman nobility and a number of specially invited guests.

After donning the pontifical robes the Pope, borne on the Sedia Gestatoria and escorted by the Papal Guards, proceeded with the cardinals and the court to the Sistine Chapel, in the Vatican Palace, where were gathered representatives of the Roman religious orders and clergy. After a brief prayer before the Holy Sacrament, which was there exposed. Leo intoned the "Veni Creator" and then again ascended the Sedia Gestatoria. Preceded by clergy and friars, who bore lighted candles, the Pope proceeded to the Vestibule of the Basilica, priests lining the halls and

In the Vestibule the papal throne had been The Supreme Pontiff ascended the throne, which was immediately surrounded by pardinals and dignitaries.

Suddenly a heavy bell boomed. Lee rose and walked toward the Holy Door, preceded by the Grand Penitentiary. Cardinal Monsigner Serafine Vannutelli, Prefect of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, met him and handed him an artistic golden mallet given by the Italian bishops. Leo, wearing the mitre, uttered the verses of the Liturgy and struck three blows with the hammer on the door, which had previously been cut with a saw.

A few moments of solemn stlence followed, the Pope and the papal dignitaries in their state es being grouped before the door. Then the latter swung back, and the officials of St. Peter's laved the threshold and doorposts with holy water, while Leo opened the psalm "Jubilate Dec." which was taken up by the Pontifical Choir. The Pope, having again covered his head and holding in his right hand a crucifix and in his left a lighted candle, knelt at the threshold amid the strains of the Te Deum. Rising to his feet, he stepped alone within the portals of the vast and empty Basilica. The cardinals and

At this moment all the church bells in Rome rang out. Lee stopped before the altar of Michael Angelo, where the Janitors of the Holy Door for the coming year kissed his feet. He addressed a few words to them on the importhe altar, where the sacrament was offered, folindulgences. 1:15 o'clock he had returned to his private

apartments, having performed the ceremonies with great apparent satisfaction. He was smiling throughout, but grew pale and showed signs toward the end Nevertheless he gave the three blows upon the door with considerable Profound silence was maintained throughout

the ceremony, save when the Pope gave his blessing, which evoked loud "vivas." The weather was fine and an enormous concourse assembled in the precincts of the Basilica. Order was preserved inside by the Pontifical Guards and outside by the Royal Carabineers and the

FLAMES HAD A FREE FIELD.

TWO HOUSES IN WILLIAMSPRIDGE DE-STROYED BEFORE THE NEAREST ENGINE ARRIVED.

ouses and a part of a third were destroyed up in Williamsbridge, in The Bronx, yesterday morning. The fire broke out at 3 o'clock.

The fire started in the home of Gustave Kolle, at No. 121 Second-st. Kolle is a policeman attached to the Forty-seventh Precinct. home, fortunately, and managed to get his wife and three children out. The wind was blowing a small hurricane at the time, and there was a driving rain. The neighbors and, in fact, most of villagers arose when they heard the fire bells, and hastened to the scene. The only app for fighting fire in the village is a hose The only apparatus

antiquated type. This was manned and every effort made to fight the blaze, which had spread through the house by the time the fire brigade arrived. Then it was found that the pressure was not sufficient to reach further than the first story, and the house was

A citizen ran all the way to the fire company in Jerome-ave., more than a mile distant, and gave the alarm. Meanwhile the wind had carried the fire to the home of Dr. Benjamin H. Goodsell, a dentist, living in No. 119, about seven feet away. He had arisen at the first call for help, and was manfully fighting to save his neighbor's house when he found his own on fire. He managed to get his mother and two children out, but with some

Both houses were destroyed when the fire company finally arrived with its engine. The flames had lso been driven across a forty foot space to the home of Isaac Varian, at No. 117. He lived with his son and daughter-in-law. The fire was checked there, but not until it had practically destroyed the house and its contents.

Policeman Kolle's loss is \$5,000, but covered by insurance, Dr. Goodsell places his loss at \$6,000, and says he thinks his insurance adequate to cover it; Mr. Varian's loss is \$8,000, of which \$4,500 is covered

by insurance.

The fire started, it is thought, from an overheated furnace. The flames lit up the country for a mile around, and as village customs largely prevail in that section everybody went to the fire. The larger part of the crowd remained until the fire was out. Arrangements are under way for a mass meeting to de nand that a modern engine be placed in the village.

SYNDICATE BUYS SQUAW ISLAND.

MILLIONS TO BE EXPENDED IN DOCK IMPROVE-MENTS AT BUFFALO-STEEL WORKS AND WAREHOUSES INCLUDED.

Buffalo, Dec. 24 (Special).-Squaw Island has passed into the ownership of a syndicate of capitalists, and between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000 is to be expended there in building 3,000 feet of dockage, in establishing immense blast furnaces and malleable steel works, in building several extensive warehouses to serve as a distributing station for Minneapolls flour to eastern points and for export, and in building other warehouses to be used in transfer of freight between the lake marine and the rail-The deal was closed on Thursday last. An option was on the property for thirty days.

The island consists of 175 acres and was sold through a New-York agent. Although their names are not given some of the capitalists are New-York.
City and Philadelphia men, and it is believed here
that the Frick-Rockefelier syndicate has something
to do with it. That the company is composed of influential men is shown by the fact that they have
had little trouble in persuading the Federal Government to recommend improvements in the Niagara
River.

COUNT TOLSTOL CONVALENCENT. Moscow, Dec. 24.-Count Leo. Tolstoi is now pronounced by his medical advisers fully restored to his ordinary health.

DUKE OF WESTMINSTER CREMATED. London, Dec. 24.-The body of the Duke of Westminster, who succumbed to pneumonia last Friday at his town residence. Grosvenor House, was cremated to-day at Woking Cemetery.

The deceased nobleman had been active in the promotion of cremation and was president of the Chester Cremation Society.

All Colds at their beginning are curable with JAYNE'S EXPECTORANT.-Advt.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

IT WAS NOT INTENDED THAT IT SHOULD

BE PUBLISHED JUST YET. COUNSEL REVIEWS THE TESTIMONY TAKEN

BEFORE THE MAZET COMMITTEE AND SUGGESTS REMEDIES FOR THE

EVILS OF THE PRESENT

CITY GOVERNMENT

the members of the Mazet Committee on Decert ber 8 to prepare for them, reviewing their recent investigation and framing the suggestions for remedial legislation which the committee should lay before the Legislature, was made public yes and as it may be amended so as not to hit the political "boss" system so hard as Mr. Moss would like to, he, of course, would not treat the committee so discourteously as to show

it to any one before the committee had fixed it

cautions it did leak out, and when Mr. Moss

was seen at his home, in Harlem, by a Tribune

reporter last evening he said that, since his at-

tempts at keeping the report secret had failed,

up to their taste. But notwithstanding his pr

he saw no reason why he should not acknowl-It is a long and exhaustive document, containing about thirty-eight thousand words, and is signed by Frank Moss and Francis E. Laimbeer, of counsel to the committee. The fact that John Proctor Clarke does not sign it was said by Mr. Moss to have no significance. Mr. Moss was requested by the committee to draw it up, and Mr Laimbeer assisted him. Therefore they signed it. Whether the committee will like it or not is not hard to guess. It will put their boasted nonpartisanship to a severe test. Whether they will

become public, remains to be seen. The report is divided into three parts:

First-Pointing out fundamental defects in the ffect the city government. Second-Various collateral matters which the

eliminate certain parts of it, now that it has

counsel recommends as subjects for legislative Third-Dealing with the witnesses who treated the committee with contempt during its session, and reporting to the Legislature, for such action as it may deem hest to take, the conduct before the committee of Richard Croker, John F. Carroll, Andrew Freedman, James A. Mahoney, Asa Bird Gardiner, Silas B. Dutcher and Peter B. Nostrand.

Peter B. Nostrand. After expressing a regret that the committee was unable to hear all the evidence its counsel had secured the report says:

A NATURAL INQUIRY

The first natural inquiry is: What is the character of the government of New-York City under the new charter as administered under the auspices of Tammany Hall? Does it conform to either republican or democratic or even to modern monarchical ideas? Is it, in its prin-cipal functions, representative of the people. to modern monarchical ideas? Is it, in its principal functions, representative of the people, and if not, what legislation will improve it? By an examination of the charter and of the testimony it will be seen that the immediate administration is confided to commissioners appointed. sioner have great powers of his own, but other great powers are conferred on the Board of Public Improvements in which the commission-ers have the controlling point.

ers have the controlling voice, and in which the being dependent on each other are inclined to combine and so overcome the inadequate representation there of the popular vote.

The commissioners are logically the cabinet officers of the Mayor; they were created originally to relieve him of the many executive and administrative duties that devolve upon him, but they have become independent of him, and but they have become independent of him, and they exercise powers such as should be intrust-ed only to the direct representative of the people or his subordinates.

Though not elected, nor even selected by the

people, their powers are greater than the pow ers of all elected officers. If the Commissioner ers of all elected officers. If the Commissioners were entirely responsible to the people, or to the chief representative of the people, or if their actions were watched over, advised and coordinated by him, there could not be so great objection; but they are not so responsible, and are not held to any such responsibility, nor is any attempt made to direct or even to advise

them.

The Mayor had an absolute power of removal for six months, but that has expired. He can remove now only on legal charges and trial, with the approval of the Governor of the State, and the removal is subject to review by the courts. He now washes his hands of them, and falls back on the charter, which prescribes their powers and his and protects them from him as though they were elected officials of the highest consequence and value. They, regardless of him, and of the people in many cases, proceed with the exercise of governmental functions of the highest nature and deal with the most valuable rights practically secure from any interference and control in the interests of the people.

This is not according to the ideals of Amer-This is not according to the ideals of American government. It is true that by indifference or through ignorance the people may permit the best form of government to become despotic, but they are entitled at least to a form of government which will leave open to them a way to obtain actual representation in the executive and administrative departments if they will take the treatle to do!

But are these Commissioners free from con-But are these Commissioners free from con-trol and co-ordinating influences. Their con-curring actions (as in the attacks on the Man-hattan Railway) forbid such an assumption; and the testimony shows that they are leaders or prominent officials and members of the dom-inant organization and of the social club in which, together with nearly all other city offi-cials and important employes, they are brought into direct and personal contact with the leader, his deputy and his cabinet. That leader has publicly assumed the responsibility of the enassumed the responsibility of the en-

DISTRICT LEADERS IN OFFICE.

Mr. Moss then gives the names of the district leaders of Tammany Hall who hold important offices in the city government. It is a long one, and covers about all the political berths worth having that are in the city's gift, and gives extracts from the testimony of many of them, showing how densely ignorant they are and how blindly partisan in the administration of the important duties intrusted to them. Then he makes three suggestions regarding the Mayor, as fol-

lows:

We have indicated what are at present the characteristics of machine organization, which has become and is likely to continue the controlling public force in the city; and the Legislature, which creates municipal machinery, should consider the motives and the probable future course of the organizations (and their leaders) which are likely to strive for the control of the city government, and should so carefully preserve the channel by which popular feeling may reach and affect the elected and sworn officials that the people may be able to move upon them when they have a mind to do so. The Legislature cannot make civic spirit, but it can make and preserve the channels for its effective movement.

Counsel have procured statements of the views of many eminent citizens on this point and on kindred points, and there is almost a unanimous agreement that the Mayor's absolute power of removal of appointed officers (not judicial) should be coextensive with his term; that he should be required definitely to oversee his appointees, and that he should be responsible for their acts, as a part of his own administration.

SHORTER MAYOR'S TERM It is generally agreed that the Mayor should

be made eligible for re-election (after the pres-ent term, which should not be disturbed), and thus be in a position where he is most likely to listen to the people and to sympathize with their desires.

We strongly urge you to report that Mayor's term (after the present term) should

two years instead of four.

These are followed by extracts from Mayor